



00862.023377

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                               |   |                            |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| In re Application of:         | ) |                            |
|                               | : | Examiner: Unassigned       |
| KENJI YAMAGATA, ET AL.        | ) |                            |
|                               | : | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
| Application No.: 10/733,361   | ) |                            |
|                               | : |                            |
| Filed: December 12, 2003      | ) |                            |
|                               | : |                            |
| For: PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR | ) |                            |
| PROCESSING SUBSTRATE BY       | : |                            |
| PROCESS SOLUTION              | ) | April 19, 2004             |

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the Japanese documents are enclosed.

The Japanese documents are discussed at pages 1 and 2 of the specification, and English-language abstracts for the Japanese documents are enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,371,037 is believed to be an English-language counterpart of Japan 5-21338; U.S. Patent No. 5,767,020 an English-language counterpart of Japan 6-342784; U.S. Patent No. 6,103,598 an English-language counterpart of Japan 9-92803; U.S. Patent No.

6,337,030 an English-language counterpart of Japan 10-223585; U.S. Patent No. 6,199,563 an English-language counterpart of Japan 10-242102; and U.S. Patent No. 6,127,281 an English-language counterpart of Japan 11-204494.

#### FORMAL MATTERS

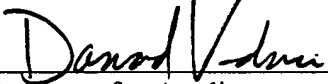
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Office Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Damond Vadnais", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Damond E. Vadnais

Registration No. 52,310

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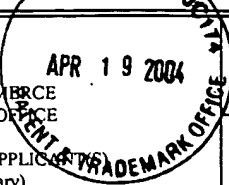
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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|--|--|---|------------|--|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified)   |  |  |            | ACTIVITY DOCKET NO.<br><b>00862.023377</b> |       | APPLICATION NO.<br><b>10/733,361</b> |                                       |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE                 |  |   |            | APPLICANT <b>KENJI YAMAGATA, ET AL.</b>    |       |                                      |                                       |
| LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  |   |            | FILING DATE<br><b>December 12, 2003</b>    |       | GROUP<br><b>Unassigned</b>           |                                       |
| Submitted to the PTO: April 19, 2004                                       |  |   |            |  |       |                                      |                                       |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |   |            |  |       |                                      |                                       |
| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER  | DATE       | NAME                                       | CLASS | SUBCLASS                             | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE         |
|  |  | 6,156,624   | 12/05/2000 | Yamagata et al.                            | 438   | 459                                  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,190,937 B1  | 02/20/2001 | Nakagawa et al.                            | 438   | 67                                   |                                       |
|  |  | 6,221,738 B1  | 04/24/2001 | Sakaguchi et al.                           | 438   | 455                                  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,569,748 B1  | 05/27/2003 | Sakaguchi et al.                           | 438   | 455                                  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,382,292 B1  | 05/07/2002 | Ohmi et al.                                | 156   | 584                                  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,475,323 B1  | 11/05/2002 | Ohmi et al.                                | 156   | 239                                  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,143,628   | 11/07/2000 | Sato et al.                                | 438   | 455                                  |                                       |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS   |  |   |            |  |       |                                      |                                       |
|  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER  | DATE       | COUNTRY                                    | CLASS | SUBCLASS                             | TRANSLATION<br>YES/NO/<br>OR ABSTRACT |
|  |  | 5-21338   | 1/29/1993  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 10-223585   | 8/21/1998  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 10-229066   | 8/25/1998  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 10-242102   | 9/11/1998  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 10-242103   | 9/11/1998  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 6-342784  | 12/13/1994 | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 9-92803   | 4/4/1997   | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 11-204494   | 7/30/1999  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 11-204495   | 7/30/1999  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
|  |  | 2000-133632   | 5/12/2000  | Japan                                      |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)   |  |   |            |  |       |                                      |                                       |
|  |  |   |            |  |       |                                      |                                       |
| EXAMINER   |  |   |            | DATE CONSIDERED                            |       |                                      |                                       |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

|   |  |   |            |   |       |                                      |                                       |
|---|--|---|------------|---|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  |  |  |            | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br><b>00862.023377</b>  |       | APPLICATION NO.<br><b>10/733,361</b> |                                       |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS   |  |   |            |   |       |                                      |                                       |
| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER  | DATE       | NAME                                    | CLASS | SUBCLASS                             | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE         |
|   |  | 6,258,698 B1  | 07/10/2001 | Iwasaki et al.                          | 438   | 455                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,306,729 B1  | 10/23/2001 | Sakaguchi et al.                        | 438   | 458                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,429,095 B1  | 08/06/2002 | Sakaguchi et al.                        | 438   | 458                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,342,433 B1  | 01/29/2002 | Ohmi et al.                             | 438   | 455                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,597,039 B2  | 07/22/2003 | Ohmi et al.                             | 257   | 347                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,331,208 B1  | 12/18/2001 | Nishida et al.                          | 117   | 89                                   |                                       |
|   |  | 6,613,678 B1  | 09/02/2003 | Sakaguchi et al.                        | 438   | 695                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,391,743 B1  | 05/21/2002 | Iwane et al.                            | 438   | 458                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,664,169 B1  | 12/16/2003 | Iwasaki et al.                          | 438   | 409                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,452,091 B1  | 09/17/2002 | Nakagawa et al.                         | 136   | 261                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,653,209 B1  | 11/25/2003 | Yamagata                                | 438   | 459                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,566,235 B2  | 05/20/2003 | Nishida et al.                          | 438   | 458                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,211,038 B1  | 04/03/2001 | Nakagawa et al.                         | 438   | 409                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 6,677,183 B2  | 01/13/2004 | Sakaguchi et al.                        | 438   | 113                                  |                                       |
|   |  | 5,371,037   | 12/06/1994 | Yonehara                                | 437   | 86                                   |                                       |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |   |            |   |       |                                      |                                       |
|   |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER  | DATE       | COUNTRY                                 | CLASS | SUBCLASS                             | TRANSLATION<br>YES/NO/<br>OR ABSTRACT |
|   |  | 2000-133558   | 5/12/2000  | Japan                                   |       |                                      | Abstract                              |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)      |  |   |            |   |       |                                      |                                       |
| EXAMINER  |  |   |            | DATE CONSIDERED                         |       |                                      |                                       |

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